

❖ NCUP (Plus) Program Announcements ❖

Part I: Public Notices **Part II: Program Updates**

Part I: Public Notices

♦ Health Insurance Flexibility & Accountability Waiver Program Termination Public Notice

Nevada's Health Insurance Flexibility and Accountability (HIFA) §1115 Demonstration Waiver five year approval expires the end of November 2011. This waiver program is authorized and funded within Section 1115 (a) of the Children's Health Insurance Program (Title XXI of the Social Security Act). Through this waiver Nevada has expanded eligibility to individuals not otherwise eligible under the Nevada Medicaid and CHIP programs.

The Nevada HIFA waiver program includes two eligibility groups- Pregnant Women who do not qualify for Medicaid and whose net annual income is above 133% and at or below 185% of the federal poverty level (FPL). The second eligibility group is individuals who qualify for insurance-premium subsidy payments through the Employer Sponsored Insurance Premium Subsidy program, called Nevada Check Up Plus. This program was designed for parents, caretaker relatives, or legal guardians of Medicaid or Nevada Check Up children, or other low-income parents, caretaker relatives or legal guardians.

Due to Nevada not meeting the new regulations under the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) Section 111, State option to cover low-income pregnant women under CHIP through a State plan amendment, and Section 112, Phase-out of coverage for nonpregnant childless adults under CHIP; conditions for coverage of parents, Nevada will not renew its Health Insurance Flexibility and Accountability (HIFA) waiver.

Individuals may be able to find assistance through Access to Healthcare Network (AHN). AHN is for Nevadans who don't have healthcare insurance or other coverage. AHN works with an extensive network of local doctors, hospitals and other healthcare providers across Nevada to offer access to healthcare services at greatly reduced rates to its members. For more information about this program you can contact AHN at 1-877-385-2345 or www.accesstohealthcare.org.

Another potential resource is Nevada's 211 hotline which maintains a list of programs and services available to residents.

If you have any questions, please contact our office 1-877-KIDS NOW (543-7669).

Part II: Program Updates

HIFA Programs Phase-Out Plans

Nevada's Health Insurance Flexibility and Accountability (HIFA) §1115 Demonstration Waiver's five year approval expires the end of November 2011. This waiver program is authorized and funded within Section 1115 (a) of the Children's Health Insurance Program (Title XXI of the Social Security Act) and is approved for a 5-year period, from December, 2006, through November 30, 2011. Through this waiver Nevada has expanded eligibility to individuals not otherwise eligible under the Nevada Medicaid and CHIP programs. The Nevada HIFA waiver program includes two eligibility groups and was intended to increase coverage of uninsured individuals within the State of Nevada.

The first eligibility group covered by the HIFA program, Pregnant Women (PW), comprises uninsured pregnant women who do not qualify for Medicaid and whose net annual income is above 133% and at or below 185% of the federal poverty level (FPL).

The second eligibility group covered by the HIFA program is the Employer Sponsored Insurance Premium Subsidy (ESI) program, called Nevada Check Up Plus. This group is comprised of individuals qualifying for insurance-premium subsidy payments, which are paid directly to eligible participants upon receipt of evidence of enrollment in their employer-sponsored insurance. This portion of the program is designed for parents, caretaker relatives, or legal guardians of Medicaid or Nevada Check Up children, or other low-income parents, caretaker relatives or legal guardians.

Due to Nevada not meeting the new regulations under the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) Section 111, State option to cover low-income pregnant women under CHIP through a State plan amendment, and Section 112, Phase-out of coverage for nonpregnant childless adults under CHIP; conditions for coverage of parents, Nevada will not renew its Health Insurance Flexibility and Accountability (HIFA) waiver. This document outlines the steps Nevada intends to implement the termination of the HIFA waiver program effective November 30, 2011.

♦ PREGNANCY PROGRAM

In accordance with Section 111 of CHIPRA, Nevada plans to phase-out coverage of the HIFA Waiver Pregnant Women eligibility group with the expiration of the five year waiver approval. The State does not meet the requirement of having the Medicaid option of at least 185% FPL for pregnant women, required to cover pregnant women age 19 and older under the Title XXI, CHIP program. It should be noted the HIFA Waiver Pregnancy Program is one of many programs which eligibility is determined through a trickle down process from a single application submitted to the Department of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS). Therefore, denials are not specific to only the HIFA pregnancy program but are an overall denial for all programs served by the one application. Based on this process, the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy will not be sending specific denial notifications to potential recipients. Rather DWSS will cease performing these eligibility determinations six months prior to the waiver expiration, and as of June 1, 2011, no longer add women to the HIFA waiver pregnancy benefit plan. Upon expiration of the program, any women who have not completed the program and who would remain otherwise eligible will remain covered at full State expense for two months post partum, as per the waiver approved program.

The transition process (reference time line below) will include the State notifying the Tribes, posting public notices informing existing, and potentially new, recipients of the intended program termination. These public notices will be posted throughout the year to facilitate communication. Six months prior to the waiver expiration, no new recipients will be enrolled in the program. All existing recipients will be sent an individual notification explaining that the program will be terminated effective December 1, 2011;

however, coverage will be granted through two months of post partum. It should be noted that preliminary research indicates that only approximately three recipients are expected to remain covered through program termination due to post partum. State only funds have been set aside and will be used, unless FFP is available, to assist with the demonstration phase out. Agency policy manuals will also be eliminated and archived.

Timeline

December 2010-, meet with the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services to Determine NOMADS eligibility system change needs. Submit any needed system change requests. Publish notification of program elimination in the updated Nevada Medicaid and Nevada Check Up Fact Book.

☑ April 2011- notify the Tribes and post public notice including notice of public hearing in May to amend policy that provides for new program enrollments. Post information on program termination on Nevada Check Up, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy and Division of Welfare and Supportive Services Websites, Notify Advocacy and Outreach Groups such as Covering Kids and Families.

☑ May 2011- public notice, conduct public hearing to amend policy, suspend further program enrollment on June 1, 2011, send Intra-Agency memo to the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) to cease enrollment June 1, 2011.

☑ June 2011- public notice, suspend new program enrollments and terminate system capabilities, send existing recipients letters indicating program termination effective November 2011 with information of continued coverage until 2 months post partum.

September 2011 – post public notice for October public hearing to fully eliminate the program November 30, 2011.

October 2011- November 2011- public notice, send existing recipients Final Termination Letter indicating each person's actual termination date at two months post partum, send Intra-Agency memo to DWSS to remind of program termination and system capabilities. Conduct October public hearing to terminate program.

♦ EMPLOYER SPONSORED INSURANCE PREMIUM SUBSIDY PROGRAM

In accordance with Section 112 of CHIPRA, Nevada plans to phase-out coverage of the HIFA Waiver Employer Sponsored Insurance (ESI) eligibility group with the expiration of the five year waiver approval. The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall not renew a waiver or demonstration project that allows funds to be used for health benefit coverage to this population. The state will begin this phase out process six months prior to the waiver expiration, and as of June 1, 2011, stop eligibility determinations and will no longer add enrollees to the HIFA waiver ESI program.

Nevada will strive to assist recipients in locating comparable resources. The State will notify the Tribes and post public notices informing existing, and potentially new, recipients of the intended program termination in conjunction with the Pregnancy Program notifications. Six months prior to the program termination the State will send all existing recipients an individual notification of the pending termination and information on resources to locate other health care coverage assistance. No new applications will be accepted and no new recipients will be enrolled beginning the sixth month prior to program expiration. The State will call each ESI recipient during the phase out plan to confirm they are aware of the program termination and offer information regarding local resources such as Access to Health Care Network and Nevada's 211 information center. Agency policy manuals will also be eliminated and archived.

Timeline

☒ December 2010 - Publish notification of program elimination in the updated Nevada Medicaid and Nevada Check Up Fact Book.

☒ April 2011- public notice, notify the Tribes, including notice of public hearing in May to amend policy that provides for new program enrollments. Send existing recipients, and their employers, letters indicating program termination effective November 2011. Post information on program termination on Nevada Check Up Plus, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy Websites. Notify Advocacy and Outreach groups such as Covering Kids and Families.

☒ May 2011- public notice, conduct public hearing to amend policy and suspend further program enrollment June, 1, 2011,

☒ June 2011- public notice, suspend new program enrollments and terminate system enrollment capability, call existing recipients and their employers.

August 2011- call existing recipients and their employers.

September 2011 – post public notice for October public hearing to fully eliminate the program November 30, 2011.

October 2011- send all existing recipients Final Termination Notice, conduct public hearing to terminate program.

November 2011- public notice, terminate access to ESI program database